

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 NEW DE 00540 121643Z  
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EA-07 IO-13 AID-05 IGA-02 CIAE-00  
DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01  
PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01 TRSE-00 /084 W  
-----121839Z 019689 /41

R 121208Z JAN 77  
FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0543

C O N F I D E N T I A L NEW DELHI 0540

FOLLOWING SENT ACTION NEW DELHI, INFO BOMBAY AND MADRAS  
FROM CALCUTTA JAN 12, 1977 REPEAT FOR YOU

QUOTE  
CALCUTTA 0082

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PINT, IN  
SUBJ: WEST BENGAL POLITICAL SITUATION

1. THE CEASE-FIRE BETWEEN PRO AND ANTI-RAY FACTIONS  
ARRANGED IN NEW DELHI AT THE END OF DECEMBER APPEARS  
ALREADY TO BE BREAKING DOWN. AT A RALLY IN CALCUTTA  
SUBURB OF TOLLYGUNGE ON JANUARY 9, CHIEF MINISTER RAY'S  
LEFTIST BACKERS LEVELLED A VICIOUS ATTACK AGAINST HIS  
OPPONENTS. P.R. DAS MUNSHI CALLED KAMAL NATH "A SMALL  
TIME BLACKMARKETEER" AND ALLEGED THAT NATH'S FIRM MADE  
A PROFIT OF SIX CRORES OF RUPEES FROM 1965 THROUGH 1970  
BY SELLING ALUMINUM ON THE BLACK MARKET. DAS MUNSHI ALSO  
ATTACKED ANANDA BAZAR PATRIKA (WHICH HAS SUPPORTED THE  
CAMPAIGN AGAINST RAY), CALLING THAT PAPER "THE MAIN OFFICE  
OF U.S. IMPERIALISM" AND ACCUSING IT OF VIOLATING THE  
CENSORSHIP LAW. WEST BENGAL CONGRESS GENERAL SECRETARY  
SAUGATA RAY REPORTEDLY DECLARED THAT MRS. GANDHI WOULD  
NOT BRIGHTEN HER IMAGE IN WEST BENGAL BY REMOVING S.S.  
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 NEW DE 00540 121643Z

RAY FROM THE OFFICE OF CHIEF MINISTER AND ADDED THAT THE  
PEOPLE OF WEST BENGAL HAD DEMONSTRATED THAT NOTHING  
COULD BE DONE IN THE STATE AGAINST THEIR WILL. (THE  
REFERENCE PRESUMABLY IS TO THE FRUSTRATION OF EFFORTS  
TO OUST THE CHIEF MINISTER.) SAUGATA RAY ALSO ATTACKED  
KAMAL NATH AND POWER MINISTER GHANI KHAN CHOWDHURY.

2. CHIEF MINISTER RAY WAS PRESENT AT THIS RALLY BUT APPARENTLY DID NOT MAKE ANY OPENLY PARTISAN REMARKS. RAY REPORTEDLY CALLED FOR A CONTINUATION OF THE ADVANCE TOWARD SOCIALISM AND FOR SUPPORT OF MRS. GANDHI'S 20 POINT PROGRAM. THE RALLY CLOSED, HOWEVER, WITH THE CHANT "LONG LIVE THE RAY GOVERNMENT."

3. THERE IS MORE TO COME. L.K. BOSE, WHOSE ALLIANCE WITH DAS MUNSHI IN SUPPORT OF RAY APPARENTLY HOLDS FIRM, HAS ANNOUNCED RALLIES IN MALDA ON JANUARY 22 AND IN CALCUTTA ON FEBRUARY 5, THE LATTER WITH THE PARTICIPATION OF THE CHIEF MINISTER, P.R. DAS MUNSHI AND FOOD MINISTER PRAFULLA KANTI GHOSH. THUS FAR THE ANTI-RAY GROUP HAS KEPT SILENT, BUT THESE ATTACKS BY RAY'S SUPPORTERS OBVIOUSLY INVITE RENEWED AGITATION BY HIS OPPONENTS.

4. WE ARE TOLD THAT FOLLOWING THE CONCLUSION OF THE MODUS VIVENDI IN DELHI AT THE END OF DECEMBER PAPERS HAVE AGAIN BEGUN TO MOVE AT THE WRITERS' BUILDING. GOVERNMENT ACTIVITY IS STILL SLOW - PARTICULARLY AS REGARDS THE AFFAIRS OF THE POWER AND IRRIGATION MINISTRY - BUT IS NO LONGER PARALYZED AS IT WAS DURING THE CLOSING MONTHS OF 1977. BUT THE IMPROVEMENT MAY BE ONLY TEMPORARY IF THE BATTLE BETWEEN THE PRO AND ANTI-RAY FACTIONS RESUMES FULL SCALE IN THE WEEKS AHEAD. SIGNED KORN UNQUOTE SCHNEIDER

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PROVINCE, DISSIDENT FACTIONS, POLITICAL SITUATION  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Sent Date:** 12-Jan-1977 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Date:** 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1977NEWDE00540  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D770012-0204  
**Format:** TEL  
**From:** NEW DELHI  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1977/newtext/t19770159/aaaabzmc.tel  
**Line Count:** 89  
**Litigation Code IDs:**  
**Litigation Codes:**  
**Litigation History:**  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Message ID:** 5a5870da-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Office:** ACTION NEA  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Retention:** 0  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 24-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 3615623  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** WEST BENGAL POLITICAL SITUATION  
**TAGS:** PINT, IN  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**vdkgvwkey:** odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/5a5870da-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009